



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATE AND FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT TWO CHECKPOINTS AND ARREST A VIOLENT CRIMINAL ALIEN GROUP.

The Arizona Department of Public Safety Gang and Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM), DPS Highway Patrol Officers assisted by agents with the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and (ATF) Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) conducted a two day detail on southbound Interstate 19 using a traffic checkpoint.

One traffic stop near the checkpoint resulted in the discovery of four undocumented aliens and a U.S. citizen in possession of an AK-47 Assault Rifle, a sawed off shotgun and two large caliber pistols. It is believed this is a violent and dangerous criminal alien group known as "Bajadores". These groups are known for killing and robbing human smugglers and holding undocumented aliens for ransom.

"This operation was tremendously successful because it did take one of the most violent criminal alien groups off the street. It also shows how these law enforcement agencies can be successful when they have a cooperative spirit," said Sergeant Steve Tritz of the DPS GIITEM Border Security and Immigration Squad in Tucson.

The two day effort which occurred on July 10th and July 13th also resulted in 30 undocumented aliens being turned over to the U.S. Border Patrol along with 11 felony arrests.

"The Arizona Department of Public Safety will continue to conduct operations like these as a way of dealing with violent criminal alien gangs who seek to profit at the point of a gun from human smuggling. These efforts are part of Governor Napolitano's Secure Arizona Initiative to help take back control of our border," said Roger Vanderpool, Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.